Gold Wealth Beneath Deccan Plateau

*155. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast untapped gold wealth lies beneath Deccan plateau and it is proposed to exploit these dormant untapped potentials;

(b) the progress made in mining of Huti region gold mines in Karnataka and other similarly placed mines in the country; and

(c) the reasons for lagging behind Australia in gold mining when both the countries have similar geographical characteristics such as rock formation and the soil beneath surface?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, the geological set up below the Deccan Plateau does not suggest occurrence of vast untapped gold wealth.

(b) In Hutti region, Karnataka, Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML), a Government of Karnataka Undertaking, operates two units *i.e.* (i) The Hutti Gold Unit (HGU) - comprising Hutti Gold Mines (under ground), Uti (Open-cast Mines) and Hirab-Buddini (Exploratory mine), in Raichur District and (ii) Chitradurga Gold Unit (CGU) - comprising Ajjanahalli (open-cast mine) in Tumkur District and G.R. Halli (exploratory underground mine) in Chitradurga District. During the year 2002-2003, HGML produced 2709 kgs. of Gold.

The other gold mines of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) in the Kolar Gold Fields of Karnataka and in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh have been closed due to uneconomic operations.

(c) Even though there is similarity in the geological setup, structure, tectonics and metaliogeny between Yilgarn and Pilbara cartons of Australia and Dharwar Craton of Peninsular India, the extent of mineralization can vary from craton to craton. In India the mining has been limited to a few relatively high tenor deposits of a minimum 3 g/ tonne of primary gold. The occurrences are few and wide apart. In

Australia the number of reported gold occurrences is much more and both underground and opencast mechanized mining is practiced.

Studies on Abnormal Increase in Summer Temperature

*156. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disaster management wing of Home Ministry is aware of the fact that several parts of the country, mainly Andhra Pradesh, recorded unprecedented high temperature in the summer of 2003;

(b) whether any agency studies the reasons for the abnormal increase in the average summer temperature in the States like Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government intend to ask any of our scientific agencies to find the scientific reasons for the unusual phenomenon; and

(e) the action plan to save the poor people from calamity of heat wave during summer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) During 2003, heat wave conditions in Andhra Pradesh prevailed for a duration of 27 days from 16th May to 11th June, whereas in normal cases, it lasts only for about a week or so. Regions extending from Rajasthan to coastal Orissa and Andhra Pradesh across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are prone to heat waves. Its occurrence year after year varies in space and time from one region to another.

(b) and (c) According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), this year a cyclonic storm development over the Bay of Bengal and remained over the sea for about 10 days (10-19 May. It had a prolonged influence on the flow pattern over the country even after its dissipation. This caused the dry and hot northwesterly winds to blow over the peninsula leading to heat wave conditions over Andhra Pradesh and its prevalence for an unusualy longer duration. Pre-Monsoon showers during summer generally bring respite from rising maximum temperatures and consequent improvement in heat wave conditions. But this year the